

The Pious Knights of the Bastion of Mazagan: A Historical and Cultural Study

1. Introduction

1.1 Background and Significance

The Pious Knights of the Bastion of Mazagan is an honorific name created by descendants of Portuguese knights who served in the occupation of Mazagan, a fortified city in Morocco. Their contributions were significant in defending the territory against various sieges, particularly from Moroccan forces.

1.2 Purpose and Scope of the Study

This study aims to explore the origins, key figures, cultural impact, and legacy of the ancestors who were knights and served as inspiration for the creation of the honorific name.

2. Chapter 1: Origins of the Knights of the Bastion of Mazagan

2.1 Founding

The order was founded recently, and it is not exactly an order of chivalry or title of nobility, but an honorific title created by members of the Velascos Bélicos branch. This title is not recognized by any government or representatives of the current nobility of any country. However, the honorific group imitated the mode of organization of a chivalric order in some respects.

3. Chapter 2: Velascos Bélicos

For a long time, most Portuguese and Brazilian scholars failed miserably to preserve the history of these notable Portuguese-Spanish people who left many descendants mainly in Lisbon and the northern region of Brazil. The Velascos Bélicos are a prominent family currently associated with the Pious Knights. All of the Velascos are descendants of a 17th century knight called João Lourenço Bélico and his wife Joana de Velasco. Notable members include João Lourenço Bélico, Antônio Lourenço de Velasco, Domingos Franco Bélico de Velasco, who were key figures in the family's history, and with an extensive military history against the Moors.

4. Chapter 3: Requirements to Belong to the Order

Many of these Velascos are spread across the states of Pará, Amazonas, Roraima and Amapá. And as it is just an honorific title, there is no grand master. But there are clear requirements to be recognized as a member. Men are recognized by the name "Knight" and women by the name "Lady". Obviously it is an honorific and hereditary title.

A.1 - Being a descendant of the Velascos Bélicos branch.

A.2 - Have the surname Velasco.

To continue to be entitled to the title, the descendant must follow a code of conduct.

B.1 - Do not support State decisions that undermine the institution of the family.

B.2 - Prohibition of following the Muslim religion. For it is an ancient family tradition to wage war against Islam. For we consider this religion a danger to Christianity and the Western world.

B.3 - Our family morals and dignity are above any Law of any country. The members of this family do not accept harming other people because a Law allows or orders it.

B.4 - We value courage, strength, serenity and mercy. Many of the virtues of the ancient knights. We do not accept cowardice, evil and violence against innocent people.

B.5 - Be aware of dangers like a fox, know how to avoid traps, and defend your family like a lion. Just be careful not to overdo it and fall into item B.4 of the code of conduct.

4.1 Key Battles and Campaigns of Portuguese Knights in Mazagan

The knights were integral during significant conflicts such as the Siege of Mazagan (1562), where they defended the city against a massive Moroccan force led by the Saadian Sultanate. Their strategic acumen and bravery were pivotal in maintaining Portuguese control, until the evacuation of the fortress in 1769. This historical fact and many others that occurred in Mazagan (present-day El Jadida) and in India, inspired the Velasco descendants of these many knights to create this honorific title.

In India, the notable Domingos Franco Bélico de Velasco was a hero of the campaigns between the Maratha and Sunda, and also conquered the fort of Alorna. Domingos was a Knight of the portuguese royal house and of the order of Christ.

5. Chapter 4: Artistic Inspiration

5.1 Symbols

The full black shield represents sobriety, wisdom and prudence. The golden metal presents the nobility and legacy of ancestors. The Dragon is a symbol that invokes bravery, of everyone who defends his treasure with determination, courage and with his life.

6. Chapter 5: Cultural Impact and Influence

6.1 Local and Global Perspectives

Locally, the knights influenced the social and economic structures of Mazagan, integrating Portuguese and Moroccan cultures. Globally, they contributed to the spread of Portuguese architectural styles and military techniques, influencing fortifications in other Portuguese territories. Many of the descendants of these Portuguese knights perpetuated the facts in celebrations and founded a city with the same name in the state of Amapá.

6.2 Saint James Festival and Mazagan Knights

Today, the legacy of the Knights is celebrated in events such as the Saint James Festival, which commemorates their contributions and valor. These modern-day celebrations help preserve the historical memory of the knights and their impact on Portuguese and Moroccan heritage. Thus, the creation of the aforementioned honorific title by the Velascos Bélicos is a new tribute to their ancestors. The same ones that those who celebrate Saint James have. Pejorative names like Mazaknights mean nothing to us.

8. Conclusion

The Pious Knights of the Bastion of Mazagan is a title that was created by members of the Velascos Bélicos branch and demonstrates the pride of these descendants who did not surrender to any attempt by third parties to destroy the dignity and memory of their ancestors. And they do not

surrender to the whims of some to glorify pathetic figures for nothing and give personal merits without considering family background. Illustrious blood has nothing to do with races or ethnicities, but with lineages. We would never accept giving up who we are to descend from a beggar just because he is European. Finally, we do not accept that other people of illustrious blood look down on us, as we are neither less than them nor more than anyone else.

9. References

https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pious_Knights_of_the_Bastion_of_Mazagan

https://pious-knights-of-the-bastian-of-mazagan.fandom.com/wiki/Pious_Knights_of_the_Bastion_of_Mazagan

<https://pious-knights-of-the-bastian-of-mazagan.fandom.com/wiki/Category:Mazaknights>

<https://www.quora.com/profile/Xogum-1/Pious-Knights-of-the-Bastion-of-Mazagan-It-is-an-honorific-name-created-by-a-group-of-members-of-the-Velascos-B%C3%A9licos-fa>

<https://www.quora.com/profile/Xogum-1/About-a-third-of-Portuguese-knights-served-in-North-Africa-One-of-these-places-under-Portuguese-rule-was-called-Mazagam-1>

<https://www.dicionarioinformal.com.br/mazaleiro/>

https://www.reddit.com/r/Morocco/comments/i1xrwz/should_i_visit_eljadida_city_i_really_like_it_and/

<https://pt.scribd.com/document/733820931/Pious-Knights-of-the-Bastion-of-Mazagan>

<https://www.quora.com/profile/Xogum-1/code-There-is-a-branch-of-the-Velasco-family-whose-members-are-known-as-Velascos-B%C3%A9licos-These-descend-from-the-knight-1>

<https://www.quora.com/profile/Xogum-1/The-Pious-Knights-of-the-Bastion-of-Mazagan-is-an-honorific-designation-created-for-members-of-the-Velasco-B%C3%A9licos-fami>

<https://www.geni.com/people/Domingos-B%C3%A9lico-de-Velasco/6000000026311660262>

<https://www.geni.com/people/Antonio-de-Velasco-Cavaleiro-Fidalgo-da-Casa-Real/6000000120408264840>

<https://www.geni.com/people/Jo%C3%A3o-B%C3%A9lico-Cavaleiro-Fidalgo-da-Casa-Real/6000000120409151821>

https://pious-knights-of-the-bastian-of-mazagan.fandom.com/wiki/Category:Piedosos_Cavaleiros_do_Basti%C3%A3o_de_Mazag%C3%A3o

<https://pt.scribd.com/document/734377238/Pious-Knights-of-the-Bastion-of-Mazagan>

https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piedosos_Cavaleiros_do_Basti%C3%A3o_de_Mazag%C3%A3o